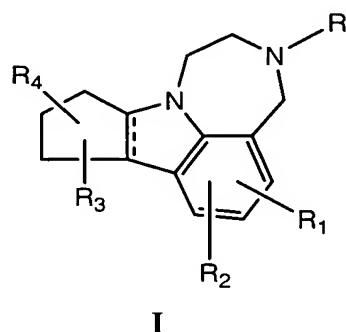


**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Currently amended) A process for the synthesis of compounds of formula I:



I

wherein

R is hydrogen;

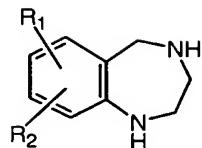
R<sub>1</sub>[[.]] and R<sub>2</sub> are each, independently, selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, alkoxy of 1-6 carbon atoms, halogen, fluorinated alkyl of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, -CN, -NH-SO<sub>2</sub>-alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, -SO<sub>2</sub>-NH-alkyl of 1-6 carbon atoms, alkyl amide of 1-6 carbon atoms, amino, alkylamino of 1-6 carbon atoms, dialkylamino of 1-6 carbon atoms per alkyl moiety, fluorinated alkoxy of 1-6 carbon atoms, acyl of 2-7 carbon atoms, and aroyl or areoyl, preferably phenoyl or thiophenoyl;

R<sub>3</sub>[[.]] and R<sub>4</sub> are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, cycloalkyl of from 3 to 7 carbon atoms and ~~or~~ -CH<sub>2</sub>-cycloalkyl of from 3 to 7 carbon atoms;

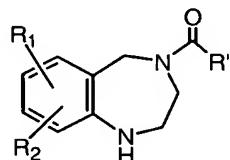
wherein the dashed line indicates an optional double bond;

the process comprising the steps of:

a) acylating a benzodiazepine compound of the formula:

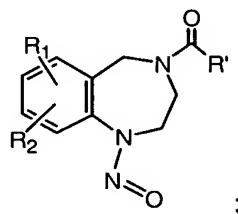


to give an acylated benzodiazepine of the formula:

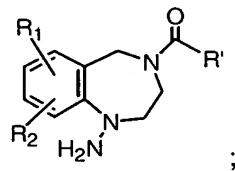


wherein R' represents ~~represents~~ alkyl of from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, ~~preferably 1 to 6 carbon~~ atoms, or a benzyl or napthyl group;

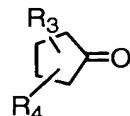
b) reacting the acylated benzodiazepine of step a) with a nitrosating agent to provide an acylated nitroso benzodiazepine compound of the formula:



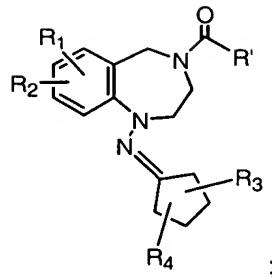
c) reducing the acylated nitroso benzodiazepine compound of step b) to yield an acylated 1-aminobenzodiazepine compound of the formula



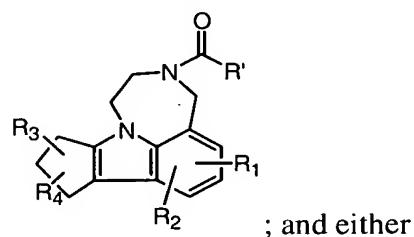
d) allowing the acylated 1-aminobenzodiazepine compound of step c) to react with a cyclopentanone compound of the formula:



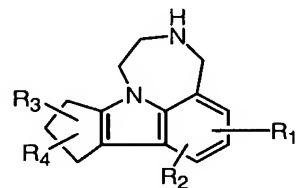
to provide a cyclopentylideneamino benzodiazepine compound of the formula:



e) reacting the cyclopentylideneamino benzodiazepine compound of step d) to provide an acylated compound of the formula:

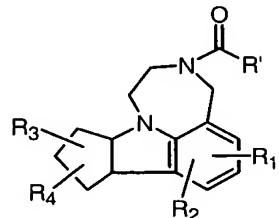


f) deacylating the acylated compound of step e) to provide a compound of the formula:

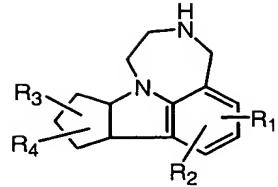


which may optionally be reduced; or

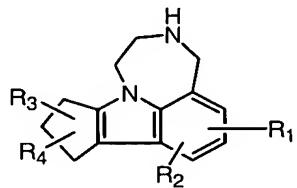
g) reducing the acylated compound of step e) to provide a reduced acylated compound of the formula:



and h) deacylating the reduced acylated compound of this step g) to provide a compound of the formula:

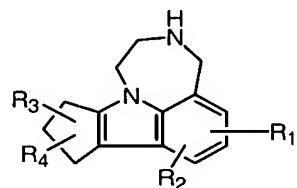


2. (Currently amended) A process of Claim 1 for the ~~production synthesis~~ of a ~~compound compounds~~ of the formula:

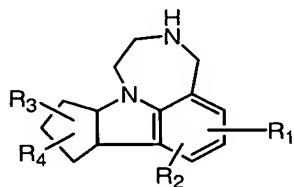


comprising the steps a) through f) of Claim 1, wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1.

3. (Currently amended) The process of Claim 2 ~~with an additional further~~ comprising the step of reducing the compound of the formula:

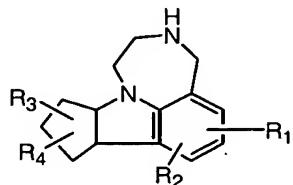


to produce a compound of the formula:

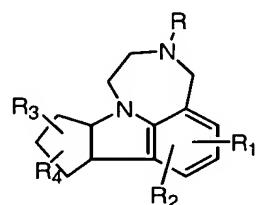


wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1.

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process of Claim 3 further comprising the step of alkylating the compound of the formula:

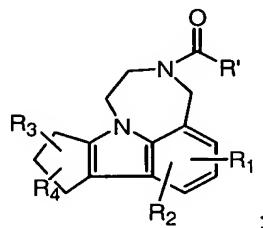


wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1, to provide an alkylated compound of the formula:

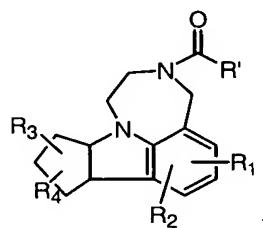


wherein R is an alkyl group of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

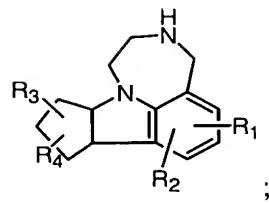
5. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process according to of Claim 1 comprising the steps a) through e) of Claim 1 to provide an acylated compound of the formula:



~~followed by reduction of and further comprising reducing~~ the acylated compound to provide a reduced acylated compound of the formula:

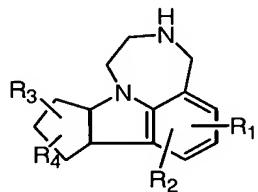


and ~~deacylation of~~ deacylating the reduced acylated compound to provide a compound of the formula:

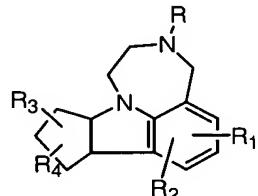


wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1.

6. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process of Claim 5 further comprising the step of alkylating the compound of the formula:

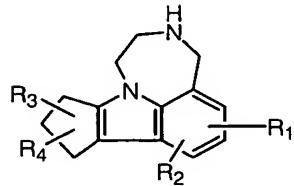


wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1, to provide an alkylated compound of the formula:

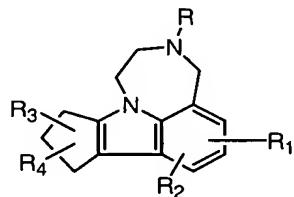


wherein R is an alkyl group of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1.

7. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process of Claim 1 comprising the steps a) through f) of Claim 1 to produce a compound of the formula:



wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1, and further comprising the step of alkylating the compound to produce an alkylated compound of the formula:



wherein R is an alkyl group of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms and R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1.

8. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process of Claim 1 wherein R is hydrogen and R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1.

9. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process of Claim 1 wherein R, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are hydrogen and R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> are as defined in Claim 1.

10. (Currently amended) [[A]] The process of Claim 1 wherein R, R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>3</sub>, and R<sub>4</sub> are each hydrogen.